

April 16, 2007

To: Parks and Environment Committee

From: Board of Health

Subject: Hot Weather Response Plan Update

Recommendations:

The Board of Health, on April 16, 2007, forwarded the following Recommendations 4, 5 and 6 in the communication (April 16, 2007) from the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee to the June 6, 2007, Parks and Environment Committee meeting for consideration as part of the City's Climate Change Plan:

- “4. establish ward based ‘cooling centres’ based in City operated recreation/community centres;**
- 5. increase funding to permit expanded drop-in based heat/cooling support response; and**
- 6. provide heat response funding that will support the development of local heat registries and local heat safety networks.”**

Decision Advice and Other Information:

The Board of Health:

- A. recommended to the Community Development and Recreation Committee that:
 1. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, be authorized to allocate up to \$200,000 gross (\$50,000 net) to implement the 2007 extended summer hours drop-in program;
 2. Shelter, Support and Housing Administration increase the number of cooling centres operated during Extreme Heat Alerts from four to five, the fifth site to be in Scarborough;
 3. the extended drop-in hours at the cooling centres begin on May 12 or May 19, 2007; and

4. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, be requested to search for a more acceptable and appropriate cooling centre to replace Metro Hall as the 24-hour cooling site;
- B. forwarded the following Recommendations 4, 5 and 6 in the communication (April 16, 2007) from the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee to the June 6, 2007, Parks and Environment Committee meeting for consideration as part of the City's Climate Change Plan; and
- “4. establish ward based ‘cooling centres’ based in City operated recreation/community centres;
 5. increase funding to permit expanded drop-in based heat/cooling support response; and
 6. provide heat response funding that will support the development of local heat registries and local heat safety networks;”;
- C. forwarded the following Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 8 in the communication (April 16, 2007) from the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee to the Medical Officer of Health for implementation:
- “1. that a more intensive and long term heat response planning process be implemented;
 2. that the hot weather response plan be linked to the City of Toronto's broader environmental and climate change agenda;
 3. the Hot Weather Response Team undertake a mid-summer assessment of what is occurring throughout the City during the hot weather period;
 8. that an increased number of TTC tickets and other services be made available to drop-ins, well in advance of any potential hot weather;”;
- D. requested the Medical Officer of Health to:
- a. submit a report to the Board of Health on options for regulating health conditions in private sector housing for vulnerable adults, particularly the elderly; and
 - b. survey community agencies that are participating in the coordinated Hot Weather Response Plan to determine the number of vulnerable clients who are being contacted during heat alerts by the Agency and identify any service gaps related to outreach to clients; and
- E. forwarded a letter to the Licensing and Standards Committee urging that:

1. a maximum temperature provision be developed as part of the proposed licensing system for multi-unit residential buildings; and
2. every effort be made to develop this provision in 2007.

Background:

The Board of Health on April 16, 2007, considered a report (April 10, 2007) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing a summary of Toronto's Heat Warning System and Hot Weather Response Plan, including the implementation of the Hot Weather Response Plan in the summer of 2006. It also provides an overview of heat response measures in other jurisdictions.

Recommendations:

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the General Manager of Shelter, Support and Housing Administration be authorized to allocate up to \$200,000 gross (\$50,000 net) to implement the 2007 extended summer hours drop-in program;
2. Shelter, Support and Housing Administration increase the number of cooling centres operated during Extreme Heat Alerts from four to five, the fifth site to be in Scarborough; and
3. this report be forwarded to the Community Development and Recreation committee for its consideration.

Tanya Gulliver, Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, appeared before the Board of Health, and filed a written submission.

Secretary,
Board of Health

C. Davidovits/jd
Item HL3.3
Attachment

c. Medical Officer of Health